

(c) the terms and conditions laid down?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) INTELSAT is an international inter-governmental cooperative organisation with 133 member nations providing telecommunication service for different regions of the world. India is the tenth largest stock holder in INTELSAT. INTELSAT owns and operates the world's most extensive global communications satellite system. On January 30, 1995, Department of Space (DOS), Government of India entered into an agreement with the Washington-based International Telecommunications Satellite Organisation (INTELSAT) for the lease of a portion of the capacity (11 transponders of 36 M Hz equivalent capacity) on INSAT-2E for INTELSAT usage for providing telecommunications service to its customers. This long-term lease agreement was approved by the Government of India and the Board of Governors of INTELSAT.

(c) The contract is a 'lease' type of contract under which INTELSAT will be paying DOS approximately US\$ 100 million (about Rs. 350 crores at the present exchange rates) over a ten year period starting from 1998. The title remains with DOS throughout the contract and there is no transfer of property to INTELSAT. Clauses related to termination by either party for various reasons, mutual indemnification etc. have been built into the contract.

[Translation]

Implementation of MPLADS

61. SHRI D.P. YADAV : Will the Minister of STATE FOR PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 554 dated September 11, 1996 and state :

(a) whether the factors responsible for delay in the implementation of the schemes sanctioned by the Government have been identified;

(b) whether it is also true that the amount sanctioned under MPs Local Area Development Scheme for the last year has been withheld and even after the recommendation of new MPs, these programmes have not been started; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by the Government in this regard, till date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) The factors responsible for delay in implementation of the scheme have already been given under part (c) of

the reply to the Starred Question No. 554 dated 11.9.1996 referred to by the Hon'ble MP.

(b) and (c). It is not correct that the amount sanctioned under MPLADS for the last year has been withheld. Detailed instructions have been issued to all the District Collectors/DCs/DMs in regard to the utilisation of the funds in balance with them as on 31.3.96. Accordingly, all the works which were on-going or which were sanctioned but not started prior to the commencement of the Model Code of Conduct for Elections have been allowed to be continued/started and completed.

The District Collectors have been further instructed vide this Department's letter dated 18.7.96 to process the recommendations given by the new MPs without waiting for the release of the funds. Orders sanctioning the release of the first instalment of Rs. 50 lakh per MP for the year 1996-97 were also issued on 1.8.96.

[English]

Food Processing Industries

62. SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA : Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Food Processing Industries set-up in Karnataka particularly in Kolar district during the last 3 years; and

(b) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI DILIP KUMAR RAY) : (a) and (b). Since Food Processing Industries are both in the organised and unorganised sectors, information with respect to all food processing units statewide is not maintained in the Ministry.

Rural Electrification

63. SHRI JAI PRAKASH (Hardoi) : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item captioned "Time to streamline rural electrification" appeared in the 'Hindu' dated August 27, 1996;

(b) if so, the facts thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The news item highlights the need for State Electricity Boards to earn 3% Rate of Return in order to ensure reliable power. It also indicates the need for